

**IN THE CLAIMS:** Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A content protection apparatus comprising:  
a controller to detect a board coupling condition of a board and a device, the board coupling condition indicating whether the board is coupled to the device or if the board is not coupled to the device, and to perform a shutdown of a system in response to the board coupling condition.
2. (Previously Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the controller is attached to the board.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device is a second board.
5. (Previously Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the second board is an adapter card.
6. (Previously Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the second board is an add-in card.

7. (Previously Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a connector to couple the board to the second board.

8. (Previously Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the board is a printed circuit board.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shutdown is a removal of power from at least one of the board and the device.

12. (Previously Amended) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, the controller further to log an event in response to the board coupling condition.

13-14. (Withdrawn)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Currently Amended) A content protection system comprising:

a board;

a device;

a connector to couple the board to the device;

an electrical circuit formed among the board, the connector and the device; and

a controller to perform a shutdown of the system in response to a condition of the electrical circuit when the condition indicates that the board is not coupled to the device.

18. (Withdrawn)

19. (Previously Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is at least one of a board, an add-in card, an adapter card and a module.

20. (Previously Amended)        The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board is a printed circuit board.

21. (Previously Amended)        The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board is an adapter card.

22. (Previously Amended)        The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board is an add-in card.

23. (Previously Amended)        The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least a portion of the controller is attached to at least one of the board and the second board.

24. (Previously Amended)        The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the controller is to detect an uncoupling of the board and the device in response to the electrical circuit, and to perform the shutdown in response to the uncoupling.

25. (Previously Amended)           The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the controller is to perform the shutdown by ensuring that power is not supplied to the first board and is not supplied to the device.

26-27.           (Withdrawn)

28. (Previously Amended)           The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, the controller to perform the shutdown in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.

29. (Previously Amended)           The content protection system as claimed in claim 28, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

30. (Previously Amended)           The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the first board and the second board includes inner layer trace signals.

31. (Previously Amended)           The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board overlaps the other board in a portion of the other board near the connector.

32. (Previously Amended)        The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board includes a component having a package that is difficult to probe.

33. (Previously Amended)        The content protection system as claimed in claim 32, wherein the package is at least one of a ball grid array package and a flip chip ball grid array package.

34. (Previously Amended)        The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the board includes a component having a package that is difficult to probe.

35. (Previously Amended)        The content protection system as claimed in claim 34, wherein the package is at least one of a ball grid array package and a flip chip ball grid array package.

36. (Previously Amended)        The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and at least one of the board and the second board has attached thereon a memory device to store a unique identifier identifying at least one of the board and the second board.

37. (Previously Amended)        The content protection system as claimed in claim 36, wherein the board has attached thereon a first memory device to store a

unique identifier identifying at least one of the board and the second board and wherein the second board has attached thereon a second memory device to store a unique identifier identifying at least one of the board and the second board.

38. (Previously Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the board has attached thereon a memory device to store a unique identifier identifying at least one of the board and the second board.

39. (Previously Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the connector is a connector that is difficult to probe.

40. (Previously Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 39, wherein the connector is a surface mount connector.

41. (Previously Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a metal can enclosing at least one component attached to the board.

42. (Previously Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the device is a second board and further comprising a metal can enclosing at least one component attached to the second board.

43. (Previously Amended) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the controller performs the shutdown in response to an open circuit condition of the electrical circuit.

44-50. (Withdrawn from Consideration)

51. (Currently Amended) A content protection article comprising:  
a computer readable medium having instructions thereon which when executed cause a computer to:

monitor a board coupling condition of a board and a device, the board coupling condition indicating whether the board is coupled to the device or if the board is not coupled to the device; and

perform a shutdown of a system including the board and the device in response to the board coupling condition.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Canceled)

54. (Previously Added) The content protection article as claimed in claim 51, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when a connector coupling the board and the device has been connected or disconnected.



55. (Previously Added) The content protection article as claimed in claim 51, wherein the shutdown is performed in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously Added and Currently Amended) The content protection article as claimed in claim ~~56~~ 55, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously Added) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when a connector coupling the board and the device has been connected or disconnected.

60. (Previously Added) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shutdown is performed in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.

61. (Previously Added) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 60, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

62. (Previously Added) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when no AC power is being supplied.

63. (Previously Added) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when a connector coupling the board and the device has been connected or disconnected.

64. (Previously Added) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the shutdown is performed in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.

65. (Previously Added) The content protection apparatus as claimed in claim 64, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

66. (Previously Added) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when no AC power is being supplied.

67. (Previously Added) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the board coupling condition is a condition occurring when the connector coupling the board and the device has been connected or disconnected.

68. (Previously Added) The content protection system as claimed in claim 17, wherein the shutdown is performed in response to an uncoupling of the board and the device.

69. (Previously Added) The content protection system as claimed in claim 68, wherein the uncoupling is an uncoupling of the board and the device when AC power is not being supplied to either the board or the device.

70-73. (Withdrawn)